

A map of the United States is shown within a blue circular border. The map is overlaid with a grid of small squares in green, yellow, and blue. The text "VA HEALTH CARE ATLAS" and "FY- 2000" is centered over the map. The word "Canada" is at the top, "Mexico" is at the bottom, and "Gulf of Mexico" is at the bottom right.

VA HEALTH CARE ATLAS

FY- 2000

Diagnostic Codes Used to Define Cohort (HIV/AIDS)

ICD-9 code	Description
042	HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) DISEASE
0420	HIV WITH SPECIFIED INFECTIONS
0421	HIV CAUSING OTHER SPECIFIED INFECTIONS
0422	HIV WITH SPECIFIED MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS
0429	HIV-ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME UNSPECIFIED
V08	ASYMPTOMATIC HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS [HIV] INFECTION STATUS

Highlights

Table 6.1

National Overview

In FY-2000, the VHA had 18,235 HIV/AIDS patients with either a primary or secondary diagnostic code of one or more of the codes listed in the box above. This number represents approximately less than one percent (.55%) of the total patient population during the fiscal year (Table 6.1). As with most patients seen in the VHA, the majority of patients were male (97.77%), with only 2.23% female. HIV/AIDS patients are more highly represented in the younger age brackets. Less than 2% of HIV/AIDS patients were in the age bracket over 75 (1.34%), 4.8% were aged 65-74, and 10.77% were between the ages of 55-64; by contrast, 41.28% of HIV/AIDS patients were aged 45-54 and an additional 41.81% were under the age of 45. The proportion of patients who were married is relatively low, with only 18.28% of patients married and 81.72% of patients in the “not married” category. The “Means Test” categories show that

about thirty percent (29.43%) were Priority 1 - 3 (service-connected injured) veterans and about over sixty percent (61.23%) were Priority 5 (low income).

VISN Overview

The volume of patients with HIV/AIDS ranged from a high of 2,338 individuals in Sunshine network (VISN 8) to a low of 122 in the Central Plains (VISN 14).

VISNs with the lowest percentages of HIV/AIDS patients in their total patient population include: the Upper Midwest (VISN 13) and Central Plains (VISN 14). The Capital (VISN 5) and New York/New Jersey (VISN 3) have the highest percentage of HIV/AIDS patients nationally, but the percentage is still under 2%. Over half of the HIV/AIDS patients in the Central Plains (VISN 14) and the Heartland (VISN) networks are under the age of 45. Similar to the national pattern, HIV/AIDS patients across networks are highly represented in the lower age groups, with most of these patients under the age of 54. The majority of patients with HIV/AIDS are in Priority Group 5 (low income) across all VISNs. VISNs with over 70% of HIV/AIDS patients in the low-income category include: Great Lakes (VISN 12) and Heartland (VISN 15); however, the percentages in low incomes is relatively high across all networks. Of all the patient cohorts under study, the HIV/AIDS group has the highest percentage of low-income patients.

Table 6.2

This table compares utilization by the HIV/AIDS **primary** diagnosis group for all conditions with utilization by all VA patients for all conditions. Note that for this table, only patients who had a primary diagnosis of HIV/AIDS were selected. If a patient had HIV/AIDS as a secondary diagnosis only, he/she is not included. Further, for our primary diagnosis HIV/AIDS group we examined all utilization that occurred during the fiscal year, both HIV/AIDS-specific and all other non-HIV/AIDS related medical care obtained.

As an example of what the data show and how to interpret the findings, examine the Capital network (VISN 5). In this particular network, 1.44% of the total patients seen at a VA facility in fiscal year 2000 had a primary diagnosis of HIV/AIDS. This group of patients accounted for 3.07% of the total bed-days of care in VISN 5, 4.23% of total discharges in VISN 5, and 3.53% of outpatient visits in VISN 5 made by all patients of VA health care services in the network for all medical conditions.

Table 6.3

Table 6.3 is similar to Table 6.2 except that patients who only had a **secondary** diagnosis of HIV/AIDS are examined rather than patients who had a primary diagnosis. This table compares utilization by the HIV/AIDS secondary diagnosis group for all health conditions they had during the year (i.e., includes both HIV/AIDS-specific utilization and utilization for all other non-HIV/AIDS care the patient may have received) with utilization by all VISN patients for all conditions.

Using the example of VISN 5, the data can be interpreted as follows: .08% of the patients in VISN 5 had at most a secondary diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, but never a primary diagnosis. This group of patients accounted for .48% of the total bed-days of care, .39% of total discharges and .13% of outpatients visits utilized by all patients in the network for all conditions.

Table 6.4

Table 6.4 compares resource utilization specifically directed at treating HIV/AIDS. In other words, we examine the utilization for which the primary diagnosis (DXLSF) was a defining diagnosis for the HIV/AIDS, with utilization for all conditions by all patients in each network.

For example, in VISN 5 1.44% of the patients had some utilization for which the primary diagnosis was HIV/AIDS. Utilization specifically directed at treating the HIV accounted for .53% of all

bed-days of care, .44% of all discharges, and .86% of all outpatient visits.

Table 6.5

Table 6.5 combines the information from Tables 6.2 and 6.4, comparing utilization by the HIV/AIDS primary diagnosis group specifically directed at treating their condition with utilization by this same group for all conditions. For example, in VISN 5 1.44% of the patients had some utilization for HIV/AIDS. These patients accounted for 6,824 bed-days of care in FY-2000, of which 1,183, or about 17%, were utilized specifically for treating their HIV/AIDS (i.e., primary diagnosis (DXLSF) of HIV/AIDS). Similarly, 10.37% of the discharges for patients in the HIV/AIDS primary diagnosis group resulted from inpatient stays to treat their disease, and 24.4% of the outpatient visits made by these patients were for specifically for the treatment of HIV/AIDS.

Costs

Cost data are reported for utilization of VA services by VA patients with HIV/AIDS in Table 6.6 and Table 6.7. Veterans with HIV/AIDS are identified by an HIV/AIDS diagnosis for at least one inpatient or outpatient service received. We separately report for veterans who had at least one primary diagnosis of HIV/AIDS and veterans whose only diagnoses of HIV/AIDS are secondary to another diagnosis. Costs are for VA utilization and include inpatient, outpatient, and pharmacy services for all causes, not just for HIV/AIDS-specific use. That is, we report all VA costs for all causes for individuals identified as having HIV/AIDS.

There were 18,235 individuals with at least one primary or secondary diagnosis of HIV/AIDS for whom cost data were available, and these costs averaged \$13,899 per veteran. Breaking these costs down by whether or not the veteran had at least one primary diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, we have an average cost of \$13,588 per veteran for those with at least one primary care diagnosis of HIV and \$18,351 per veteran for those patients with only secondary diagnoses. The higher

cost for those with only a secondary diagnosis probably reflects the fact they have more severe co-morbidities that result in higher utilization. For example, for those patients with only a secondary diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, inpatient medical/surgical costs were 191% higher, other inpatient (e.g., psychiatric disorders) costs were 339% higher, and outpatient visits were 104% higher than for those with a primary diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, while pharmaceutical costs per patient was only 26% of the costs for veterans with at least one primary diagnosis of HIV/AIDS. Thus, it may be that during these other acute care inpatient episodes, HIV/AIDS was also diagnosed as a secondary problem. Focusing on those with at least one primary diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, the \$13,588 costs per veteran are distributed as follows: approximately 31% are for inpatient medical/surgical services, 12% are for other inpatient services, 26% are for outpatient services, and 31% are for pharmaceutical services. Across VISNs, overall costs per veteran with a primary diagnosis of HIV/AIDS ranged from \$9,123 (VISN 14) to \$18,590 (VISN 13) per veteran.

While there are relatively few HIV/AIDS patients when compared to the overall patient population, these data show that the average cost per patient is relatively high, that complications of the disease are evident in the utilization of other services, and that pharmacy costs are a sizeable proportion of total costs for those patients with a primary diagnosis of HIV/AIDS.

Table 6.1:
Overall Prevalence Statistics – HIV/AIDS, FY-2000

Veterans Integrated Service Network	Total Number of Patients	Patients with HIV/AIDS		Gender (%)		Age Group (%)					Marital Status (%)		Means Test Status (%)	
		N	(%)	M	F	<45	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Married	Not Married	Service Connected	Low Income
New England (1)	158,204	609	0.38	97.21	2.79	32.18	52.05	8.54	4.11	3.12	16.26	82.43	31.53	58.46
Upstate NY (2)	100,499	316	0.31	97.78	2.22	37.66	47.78	9.18	4.43	0.95	19.30	78.16	30.70	57.59
NY/NJ (3)	166,593	2,147	1.29	98.51	1.49	30.18	49.65	12.72	6.01	1.44	16.58	82.35	26.18	57.85
Stars and Stripes (4)	202,472	920	0.45	97.83	2.17	39.13	46.20	9.46	4.24	0.98	16.52	81.74	29.57	62.28
Capitol (5)	88,163	1,335	1.51	97.83	2.17	43.30	41.65	10.11	3.75	1.20	14.31	84.72	25.99	65.17
Mid-Atlantic (6)	161,081	985	0.61	95.43	4.57	45.18	42.74	8.02	3.45	0.61	18.27	79.70	36.85	55.03
Atlantic (7)	201,514	1,654	0.82	97.82	2.18	50.60	36.82	7.98	3.81	0.79	15.78	82.95	32.65	58.04
Sunshine (8)	308,906	2,338	0.76	97.43	2.57	39.61	41.15	11.98	5.95	1.33	19.38	68.99	32.68	61.25
Mid-South (9)	165,501	512	0.31	96.88	3.13	47.46	39.06	8.01	3.13	2.34	16.02	83.20	28.32	65.04
Ohio (10)	117,463	469	0.40	96.38	3.62	45.84	37.74	8.74	5.33	2.35	13.65	85.07	30.06	64.39
Vets in Partnership (11)	142,393	638	0.45	97.18	2.82	47.18	38.24	9.72	3.45	1.41	16.14	83.23	24.29	67.40
Great Lakes (12)	142,079	703	0.49	98.44	1.56	38.98	44.24	10.81	4.69	1.28	11.52	87.77	23.04	71.12
Upper Midwest (13)	96,279	164	0.17	98.17	1.83	48.78	38.41	8.54	3.66	0.61	14.63	81.71	29.27	55.49
Central Plains (14)	73,699	122	0.17	97.54	2.46	58.20	27.05	8.20	5.74	0.82	14.75	83.61	30.33	61.48
Heartland (15)	148,229	385	0.26	97.40	2.60	51.95	34.29	9.35	4.16	0.26	12.99	86.75	22.08	71.43
South Central (16)	294,286	1,596	0.54	97.68	2.32	45.80	38.16	10.40	4.32	1.32	15.85	78.51	26.57	65.41
Heart of Texas (17)	151,601	775	0.51	97.42	2.58	50.84	32.90	10.84	3.35	2.06	17.16	82.58	35.61	53.42
Southwest (18)	154,764	523	0.34	97.71	2.29	40.15	40.34	13.38	4.40	1.72	16.63	81.26	28.87	64.24
Rocky Mt. (19)	95,866	330	0.34	99.70	0.30	47.88	38.18	8.79	4.24	0.91	10.61	88.79	39.09	53.33
Northwest (20)	143,215	548	0.38	98.18	1.82	43.25	39.05	12.23	4.38	1.09	14.96	83.76	38.50	53.28
Sierra Pacific (21)	149,020	1,041	0.70	98.66	1.34	36.31	41.50	14.22	6.24	1.73	9.61	89.24	32.08	55.81
Desert Pacific (22)	178,204	1,534	0.86	98.57	1.43	44.72	37.42	11.80	4.95	1.11	9.52	88.92	26.86	64.34
National	3,314,672	18,235	0.55	97.77	2.23	41.81	41.28	10.77	4.80	1.34	18.28	81.72	29.43	61.23

Table 6.2:
Overall Resource Utilization – HIV/AIDS (Primary Diagnosis Group) Compared to All Users, FY-2000

Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN)	Total Patients	Total Patients HIV/AIDS		Bed Days of Care			Discharges			Outpatient Visits		
				Total	HIV/AIDS		Total	HIV/AIDS		Total	HIV/AIDS	
	N	N	%	N	N	%	N	N	%	N	N	%
New England (1)	158,204	550	0.35	303,134	2,805	0.93	24,413	291	1.19	1,990,550	15,968	0.80
Upstate NY (2)	100,499	278	0.28	120,203	1,557	1.30	11,871	168	1.42	1,093,796	7,738	0.71
NY/NJ (3)	166,593	1,965	1.18	405,186	10,908	2.69	24,128	878	3.64	1,854,064	54,552	2.94
Stars and Stripes (4)	202,472	859	0.42	284,688	4,399	1.55	24,122	412	1.71	1,846,937	21,531	1.17
Capitol (5)	88,163	1,268	1.44	222,405	6,824	3.07	17,107	723	4.23	1,007,572	35,612	3.53
Mid-Atlantic (6)	161,081	921	0.57	361,832	3,704	1.02	31,256	405	1.30	1,491,680	14,676	0.98
Atlantic (7)	201,514	1,576	0.78	369,514	6,154	1.67	29,275	627	2.14	1,891,761	24,134	1.28
Sunshine (8)	308,906	2,226	0.72	392,501	7,592	1.93	41,850	833	1.99	3,109,217	39,922	1.28
Mid-South (9)	165,501	469	0.28	316,108	1,972	0.62	34,579	246	0.71	1,483,519	7,293	0.49
Ohio (10)	117,463	447	0.38	191,574	1,918	1.00	18,945	226	1.19	1,327,847	11,141	0.84
Vets in Partnership (11)	142,393	577	0.41	311,786	2,079	0.67	23,779	226	0.95	1,368,643	8,806	0.64
Great Lakes (12)	142,079	625	0.44	334,130	3,772	1.13	30,157	437	1.45	1,715,017	18,036	1.05
Upper Midwest (13)	96,279	157	0.16	107,644	632	0.59	16,092	80	0.50	934,533	3,589	0.38
Central Plains (14)	73,699	111	0.15	76,697	160	0.21	9,898	31	0.31	674,604	1,462	0.22
Heartland (15)	148,229	363	0.24	211,861	1,602	0.76	25,568	162	0.63	1,458,394	4,921	0.34
South Central (16)	294,286	1,504	0.51	454,315	5,835	1.28	47,751	542	1.14	2,750,358	24,876	0.90
Heart of Texas (17)	151,601	725	0.48	297,463	2,263	0.76	25,932	318	1.23	1,544,273	13,856	0.90
Southwest (18)	154,764	504	0.33	167,362	1,274	0.76	23,822	206	0.86	1,574,259	8,295	0.53
Rocky Mt. (19)	95,866	310	0.32	132,102	645	0.49	15,065	83	0.55	959,415	4,566	0.48
Northwest (20)	143,215	508	0.35	181,076	1,096	0.61	24,296	159	0.65	1,488,150	9,533	0.64
Sierra Pacific (21)	149,020	972	0.65	214,370	2,499	1.17	19,163	295	1.54	1,630,530	19,982	1.23
Desert Pacific (22)	178,204	1,461	0.82	231,584	3,641	1.57	25,132	457	1.82	2,119,773	28,205	1.33
National	3,314,672	17,048	0.51	5,687,535	73,331	1.29	544,201	7,805	1.43	35,314,892	378,694	1.07

Table 6.3:
Overall Resource Utilization – HIV/AIDS (Secondary Diagnosis Group) Compared to All Users, FY-2000

Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN)	Total Patients	Total Patients HIV/AIDS		Bed Days of Care			Discharges			Outpatient Visits		
				Total	HIV/AIDS		Total	HIV/AIDS		Total	HIV/AIDS	
	N	N	%	N	N	%	N	N	%	N	N	%
New England (1)	158,204	59	0.04	303,134	410	0.14	24,413	47	0.19	1,990,550	2,628	0.13
Upstate NY (2)	100,499	38	0.04	120,203	295	0.25	11,871	31	0.26	1,093,796	872	0.08
NY/NJ (3)	166,593	182	0.11	405,186	3,568	0.88	24,128	209	0.87	1,854,064	2,660	0.14
Stars and Stripes (4)	202,472	61	0.03	284,688	624	0.22	24,122	60	0.25	1,846,937	1,673	0.09
Capitol (5)	88,163	67	0.08	222,405	1,078	0.48	17,107	67	0.39	1,007,572	1,320	0.13
Mid-Atlantic (6)	161,081	64	0.04	361,832	593	0.16	31,256	62	0.20	1,491,680	594	0.04
Atlantic (7)	201,514	78	0.04	369,514	514	0.14	29,275	52	0.18	1,891,761	1,127	0.06
Sunshine (8)	308,906	112	0.04	392,501	1,250	0.32	41,850	74	0.18	3,109,217	1,230	0.04
Mid-South (9)	165,501	43	0.03	316,108	286	0.09	34,579	35	0.10	1,483,519	641	0.04
Ohio (10)	117,463	22	0.02	191,574	90	0.05	18,945	13	0.07	1,327,847	611	0.05
Vets in Partnership (11)	142,393	61	0.04	311,786	439	0.14	23,779	58	0.24	1,368,643	1,693	0.12
Great Lakes (12)	142,079	78	0.05	334,130	971	0.29	30,157	99	0.33	1,715,017	2,465	0.14
Upper Midwest (13)	96,279	7	0.01	107,644	14	0.01	16,092	3	0.02	934,533	66	0.01
Central Plains (14)	73,699	11	0.01	76,697	67	0.09	9,898	6	0.06	674,604	185	0.03
Heartland (15)	148,229	22	0.01	211,861	113	0.05	25,568	20	0.08	1,458,394	601	0.04
South Central (16)	294,286	92	0.03	454,315	699	0.15	47,751	54	0.11	2,750,358	1,332	0.05
Heart of Texas (17)	151,601	50	0.03	297,463	438	0.15	25,932	38	0.15	1,544,273	593	0.04
Southwest (18)	154,764	19	0.01	167,362	203	0.12	23,822	16	0.07	1,574,259	278	0.02
Rocky Mt. (19)	95,866	20	0.02	132,102	90	0.07	15,065	8	0.05	959,415	409	0.04
Northwest (20)	143,215	40	0.03	181,076	213	0.12	24,296	25	0.10	1,488,150	629	0.04
Sierra Pacific (21)	149,020	69	0.05	214,370	421	0.20	19,163	38	0.20	1,630,530	1,188	0.07
Desert Pacific (22)	178,204	73	0.04	231,584	106	0.05	25,132	20	0.08	2,119,773	1,229	0.06
National	3,314,672	1,187	0.04	5,687,535	12,482	0.22	544,201	1,035	0.19	35,314,892	24,024	0.07

Table 6.4:
Resource Utilization for Treatment of HIV/AIDS (Primary Diagnosis Group) Compared to Overall Resource Utilization by All Users, FY-2000

Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN)	Total Patients	Total Patients HIV/AIDS		Bed Days of Care			Discharges			Outpatient Visits		
	N	N	%	Total N	HIV/AIDS N	%	Total N	HIV/AIDS N	%	Total N	HIV/AIDS N	%
New England (1)	158,204	550	0.35	303,134	219	0.07	24,413	12	0.05	1,990,550	3,289	0.17
Upstate NY (2)	100,499	278	0.28	120,203	219	0.18	11,871	13	0.11	1,093,796	1,475	0.13
NY/NJ (3)	166,593	1,965	1.18	405,186	1,698	0.42	24,128	127	0.53	1,854,064	9,033	0.49
Stars and Stripes (4)	202,472	859	0.42	284,688	498	0.17	24,122	30	0.12	1,846,937	5,150	0.28
Capitol (5)	88,163	1,268	1.44	222,405	1,183	0.53	17,107	75	0.44	1,007,572	8,704	0.86
Mid-Atlantic (6)	161,081	921	0.57	361,832	949	0.26	31,256	57	0.18	1,491,680	4,111	0.28
Atlantic (7)	201,514	1,576	0.78	369,514	1,957	0.53	29,275	164	0.56	1,891,761	7,370	0.39
Sunshine (8)	308,906	2,226	0.72	392,501	2,482	0.63	41,850	189	0.45	3,109,217	11,988	0.39
Mid-South (9)	165,501	469	0.28	316,108	564	0.18	34,579	68	0.20	1,483,519	1,845	0.12
Ohio (10)	117,463	447	0.38	191,574	194	0.10	18,945	20	0.11	1,327,847	2,390	0.18
Vets in Partnership (11)	142,393	577	0.41	311,786	340	0.11	23,779	28	0.12	1,368,643	2,704	0.20
Great Lakes (12)	142,079	625	0.44	334,130	371	0.11	30,157	51	0.17	1,715,017	2,989	0.17
Upper Midwest (13)	96,279	157	0.16	107,644	168	0.16	16,092	22	0.14	934,533	1,135	0.12
Central Plains (14)	73,699	111	0.15	76,697	32	0.04	9,898	7	0.07	674,604	421	0.06
Heartland (15)	148,229	363	0.24	211,861	630	0.30	25,568	57	0.22	1,458,394	1,057	0.07
South Central (16)	294,286	1,504	0.51	454,315	2,654	0.58	47,751	215	0.45	2,750,358	6,695	0.24
Heart of Texas (17)	151,601	725	0.48	297,463	468	0.16	25,932	68	0.26	1,544,273	6,060	0.39
Southwest (18)	154,764	504	0.33	167,362	244	0.15	23,822	44	0.18	1,574,259	2,618	0.17
Rocky Mt. (19)	95,866	310	0.32	132,102	97	0.07	15,065	14	0.09	959,415	1,391	0.14
Northwest (20)	143,215	508	0.35	181,076	166	0.09	24,296	19	0.08	1,488,150	2,327	0.16
Sierra Pacific (21)	149,020	972	0.65	214,370	591	0.28	19,163	72	0.38	1,630,530	4,728	0.29
Desert Pacific (22)	178,204	1,461	0.82	231,584	844	0.36	25,132	94	0.37	2,119,773	9,018	0.43
National	3,314,672	17,048	0.51	5,687,535	16,568	0.29	544,201	1,446	0.27	35,314,892	96,498	0.27

Table 6.5:
Resource Utilization for Treatment of HIV/AIDS Compared to Overall Utilization by the HIV/AIDS Cohort (Primary Diagnosis Group), FY-2000

Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN)	Total Patients	Total Patients HIV/AIDS		Bed Days of Care			Discharges			Outpatient Visits		
	N	N	%	Total	HIV/AIDS		Total	HIV/AIDS		Total	HIV/AIDS	
				N	N	%	N	N	%	N	N	%
New England (1)	158,204	550	0.35	2,805	219	7.81	291	12	4.12	15,968	3,289	20.60
Upstate NY (2)	100,499	278	0.28	1,557	219	14.07	168	13	7.74	7,738	1,475	19.06
NY/NJ (3)	166,593	1,965	1.18	10,908	1,698	15.57	878	127	14.46	54,552	9,033	16.56
Stars and Stripes (4)	202,472	859	0.42	4,399	498	11.32	412	30	7.28	21,531	5,150	23.92
Capitol (5)	88,163	1,268	1.44	6,824	1,183	17.34	723	75	10.37	35,612	8,704	24.44
Mid-Atlantic (6)	161,081	921	0.57	3,704	949	25.62	405	57	14.07	14,676	4,111	28.01
Atlantic (7)	201,514	1,576	0.78	6,154	1,957	31.80	627	164	26.16	24,134	7,370	30.54
Sunshine (8)	308,906	2,226	0.72	7,592	2,482	32.69	833	189	22.69	39,922	11,988	30.03
Mid-South (9)	165,501	469	0.28	1,972	564	28.60	246	68	27.64	7,293	1,845	25.30
Ohio (10)	117,463	447	0.38	1,918	194	10.11	226	20	8.85	11,141	2,390	21.45
Vets in Partnership (11)	142,393	577	0.41	2,079	340	16.35	226	28	12.39	8,806	2,704	30.71
Great Lakes (12)	142,079	625	0.44	3,772	371	9.84	437	51	11.67	18,036	2,989	16.57
Upper Midwest (13)	96,279	157	0.16	632	168	26.58	80	22	27.50	3,589	1,135	31.62
Central Plains (14)	73,699	111	0.15	160	32	20.00	31	7	22.58	1,462	421	28.80
Heartland (15)	148,229	363	0.24	1,602	630	39.33	162	57	35.19	4,921	1,057	21.48
South Central (16)	294,286	1,504	0.51	5,835	2,654	45.48	542	215	39.67	24,876	6,695	26.91
Heart of Texas (17)	151,601	725	0.48	2,263	468	20.68	318	68	21.38	13,856	6,060	43.74
Southwest (18)	154,764	504	0.33	1,274	244	19.15	206	44	21.36	8,295	2,618	31.56
Rocky Mt. (19)	95,866	310	0.32	645	97	15.04	83	14	16.87	4,566	1,391	30.46
Northwest (20)	143,215	508	0.35	1,096	166	15.15	159	19	11.95	9,533	2,327	24.41
Sierra Pacific (21)	149,020	972	0.65	2,499	591	23.65	295	72	24.41	19,982	4,728	23.66
Desert Pacific (22)	178,204	1,461	0.82	3,641	844	23.18	457	94	20.57	28,205	9,018	31.97
National	3,314,672	17,048	0.51	73,331	16,568	22.59	7,805	1,446	18.53	378,694	96,498	25.48

Table 6.6:
FY-2000 Cost of HIV/AIDS (Primary Diagnosis)

Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN)	No. of Patients	Outpatient		Inpatient Med/Surg		Inpatient Other		Pharmacy		Total
		\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$
New England (1)	554	2,795,921	36.99%	1,920,803	25.41%	1,326,548	17.55%	1,516,332	20.06%	7,559,604
Upstate NY (2)	281	1,051,818	25.04%	1,272,964	30.30%	902,729	21.49%	973,788	23.18%	4,201,299
NY/NJ (3)	1969	8,786,562	25.31%	10,832,329	31.21%	4,779,493	13.77%	10,311,319	29.71%	34,709,702
Stars and Stripes (4)	864	2,964,761	28.08%	3,812,184	36.11%	1,972,161	18.68%	1,807,978	17.13%	10,557,085
Capitol (5)	1265	4,626,940	29.15%	7,020,211	44.22%	2,514,249	15.84%	1,713,715	10.79%	15,875,114
Mid-Atlantic (6)	923	2,051,933	19.70%	2,584,242	24.81%	1,347,081	12.93%	4,433,278	42.56%	10,416,534
Atlantic (7)	1579	3,910,949	23.68%	5,954,769	36.06%	1,594,758	9.66%	5,052,588	30.60%	16,513,065
Sunshine (8)	2257	6,899,160	28.98%	7,080,802	29.74%	2,021,475	8.49%	7,805,459	32.79%	23,806,896
Mid-South (9)	472	1,122,361	21.61%	1,825,927	35.16%	494,627	9.52%	1,750,845	33.71%	5,193,760
Ohio (10)	451	2,002,752	36.68%	1,674,697	30.67%	1,084,622	19.86%	698,574	12.79%	5,460,645
Vets in Partnership (11)	577	1,660,690	24.92%	1,796,394	26.96%	723,728	10.86%	2,482,247	37.25%	6,663,060
Great Lakes (12)	625	2,614,944	26.34%	3,369,597	33.94%	1,750,129	17.63%	2,193,503	22.09%	9,928,174
Upper Midwest (13)	157	642,708	22.02%	754,204	25.84%	394,717	13.52%	1,127,069	38.62%	2,918,698
Central Plains (14)	111	247,920	24.48%	185,791	18.35%	83,498	8.24%	495,534	48.93%	1,012,743
Heartland (15)	365	742,169	20.82%	1,337,199	37.51%	369,165	10.36%	1,116,405	31.32%	3,564,939
South Central (16)	1517	3,664,500	22.31%	5,179,837	31.53%	1,754,152	10.68%	5,827,275	35.48%	16,425,763
Heart of Texas (17)	727	2,218,284	25.32%	2,306,023	26.32%	700,456	7.99%	3,537,768	40.37%	8,762,531
Southwest (18)	507	1,108,619	20.12%	1,404,228	25.49%	550,215	9.99%	2,446,445	44.40%	5,509,507
Rocky Mt. (19)	314	628,136	18.23%	840,527	24.39%	105,831	3.07%	1,871,000	54.30%	3,445,494
Northwest (20)	507	1,561,704	29.19%	1,338,656	25.02%	391,686	7.32%	2,057,858	38.47%	5,349,904
Sierra Pacific (21)	978	3,209,711	21.66%	2,968,502	20.03%	1,623,741	10.96%	7,019,017	47.36%	14,820,971
Desert Pacific (22)	1466	4,794,106	25.29%	6,030,561	31.82%	1,656,369	8.74%	6,473,851	34.15%	18,954,886
National	17,047	59,306,648	25.60%	71,490,446	30.86%	28,141,431	12.15%	72,711,848	31.39%	231,650,372

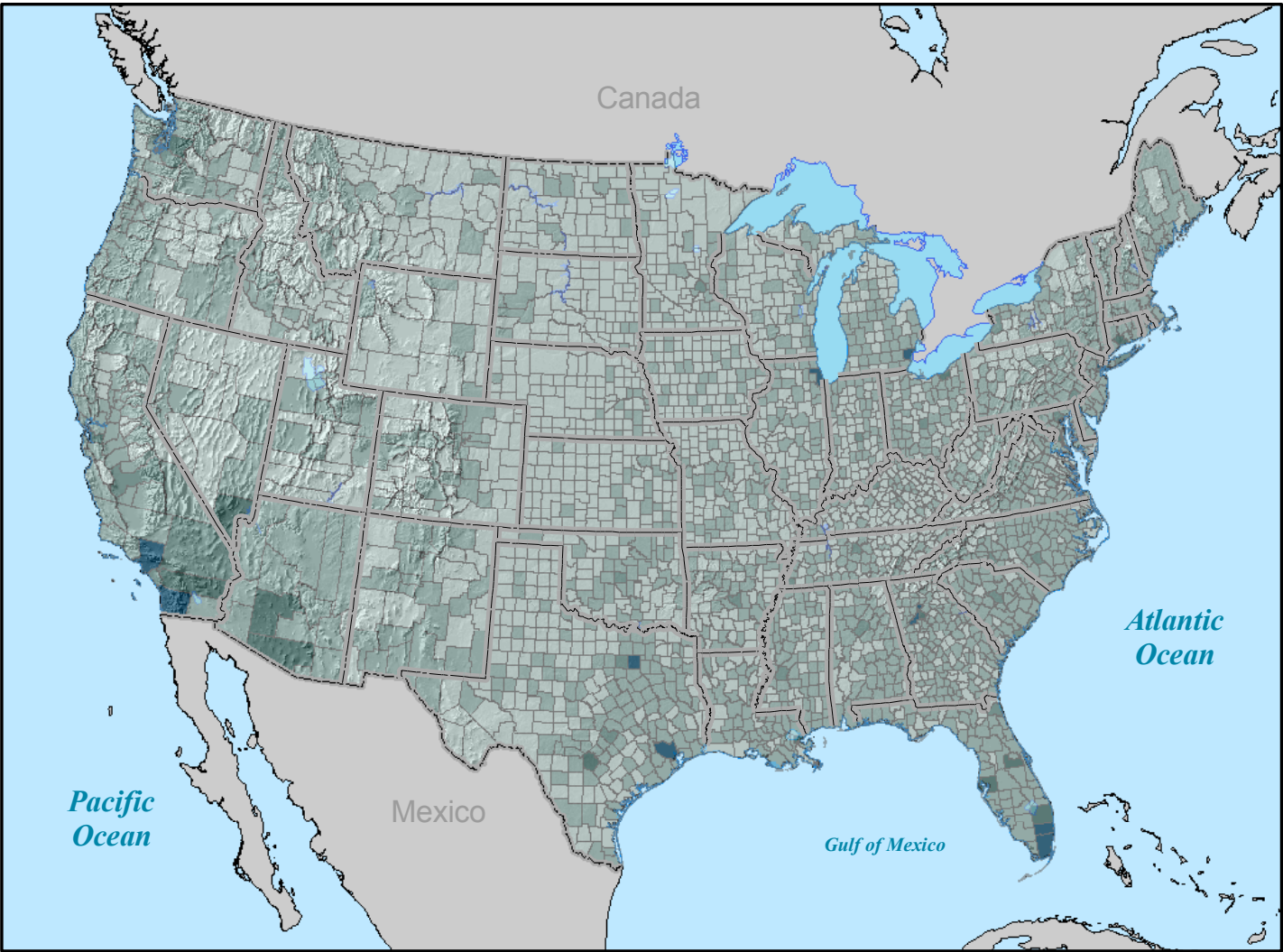
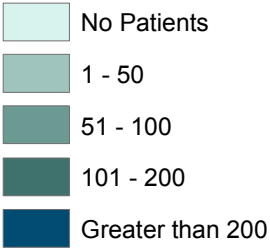
Table 6.7:
FY-2000 Cost of HIV/AIDS (Secondary Diagnosis)

Veterans Integrated Service Network	No. of Patients	Outpatient		Inpatient Med/Surg		Inpatient Other		Pharmacy		Total
		\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$
New England (1)	59	846,216	67.88%	113,286	9.09%	236,606	18.98%	50,490	4.05%	1,246,598
Upstate NY (2)	38	121,085	23.58%	123,540	24.06%	235,745	45.92%	33,034	6.43%	513,403
NY/NJ (3)	183	634,850	10.73%	2,906,184	49.12%	2,266,697	38.31%	108,982	1.84%	5,916,713
Stars and Stripes (4)	61	190,697	19.87%	311,507	32.46%	386,128	40.24%	71,346	7.43%	959,679
Capitol (5)	68	143,430	10.30%	715,144	51.38%	501,277	36.02%	31,998	2.30%	1,391,849
Mid-Atlantic (6)	64	96,472	12.29%	348,619	44.40%	308,314	39.27%	31,795	4.05%	785,201
Atlantic (7)	81	163,784	22.94%	317,593	44.49%	157,431	22.05%	75,049	10.51%	713,857
Sunshine (8)	112	213,554	12.68%	764,635	45.39%	628,803	37.33%	77,632	4.61%	1,684,624
Mid-South (9)	44	121,084	25.38%	198,038	41.51%	82,523	17.30%	75,431	15.81%	477,075
Ohio (10)	22	65,436	31.71%	84,810	41.10%	34,363	16.65%	21,757	10.54%	206,365
Vets in Partnership (11)	62	305,760	34.09%	295,707	32.97%	213,364	23.79%	81,974	9.14%	896,805
Great Lakes (12)	78	401,686	22.07%	890,063	48.90%	436,325	23.97%	92,192	5.06%	1,820,266
Upper Midwest (13)	7	10,304	29.99%	5,279	15.36%	15,763	45.87%	3,018	8.78%	34,363
Central Plains (14)	11	19,561	16.05%	69,915	57.36%	11,431	9.38%	20,970	17.21%	121,877
Heartland (15)	21	98,723	30.88%	134,905	42.20%	40,369	12.63%	45,702	14.30%	319,698
South Central (16)	92	210,451	14.12%	894,479	60.03%	223,965	15.03%	161,106	10.81%	1,490,001
Heart of Texas (17)	51	73,332	10.32%	326,369	45.94%	266,281	37.48%	44,425	6.25%	710,408
Southwest (18)	19	39,758	11.09%	197,896	55.18%	35,353	9.86%	85,618	23.87%	358,624
Rocky Mt. (19)	20	47,357	28.12%	35,925	21.33%	53,643	31.85%	31,477	18.69%	168,401
Northwest (20)	40	99,316	19.15%	301,295	58.11%	90,073	17.37%	27,818	5.37%	518,502
Sierra Pacific (21)	69	167,633	20.77%	236,583	29.31%	318,643	39.48%	84,193	10.43%	807,053
Desert Pacific (22)	75	224,196	34.94%	238,582	37.18%	105,394	16.43%	73,458	11.45%	641,629
National	1187	4,294,684	19.72%	9,510,353	43.66%	6,648,492	30.52%	1,329,463	6.10%	21,782,993

Map 6.1



Number of Patients



Number of VA Patients with HIV/AIDS
by County FY-2000

VA Health Care Atlas
HSR&D SDR 01-175

Source: VA Medical SAS Databases, FY-00

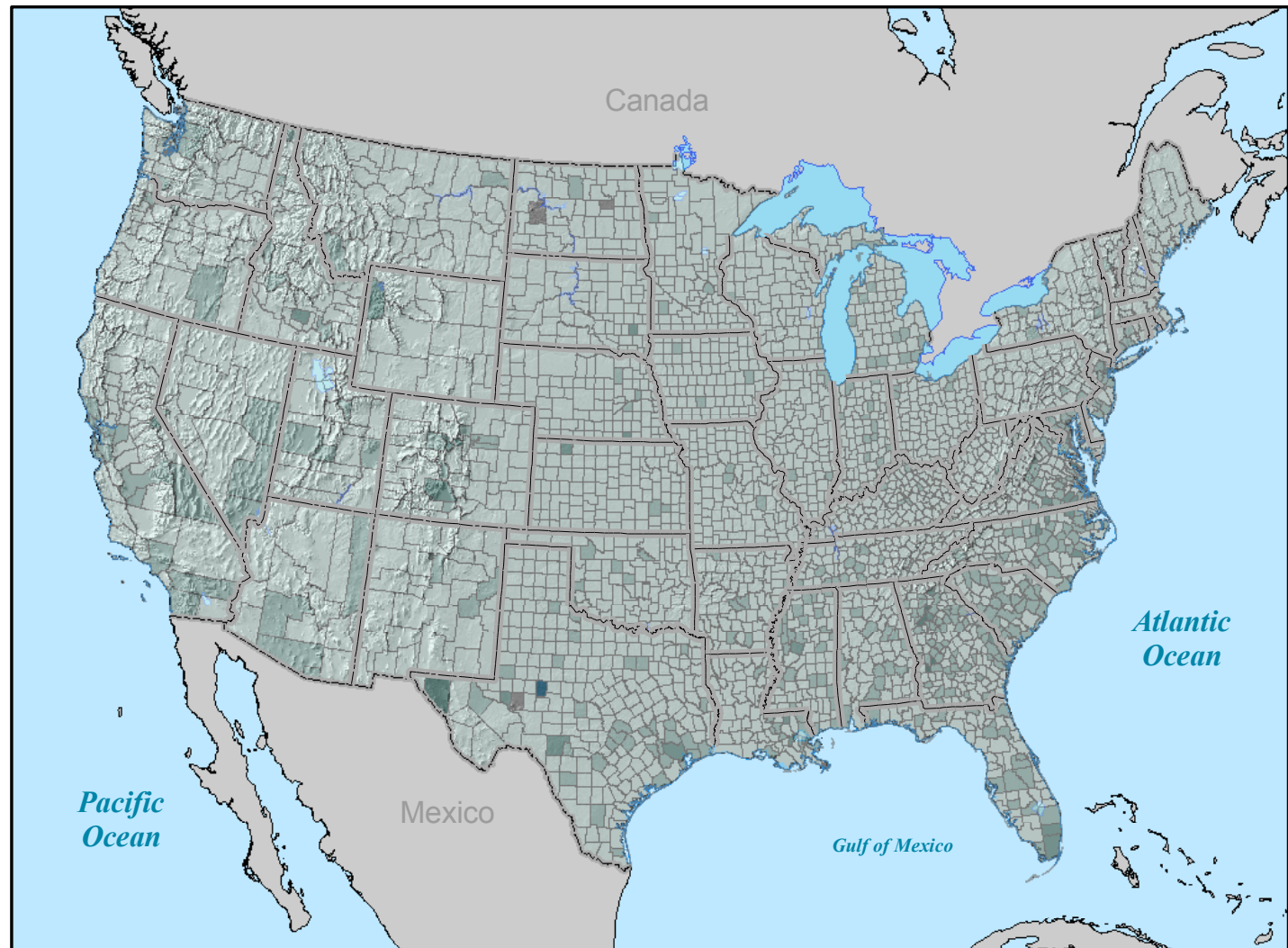
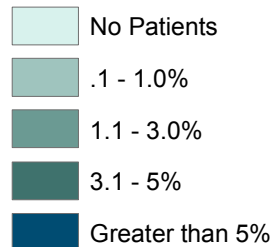
Created in ArcGIS 8 using ArcMap

HIV/AIDS

Map 6.2



Percent of Patients



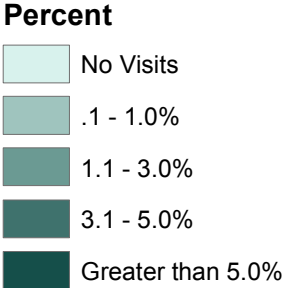
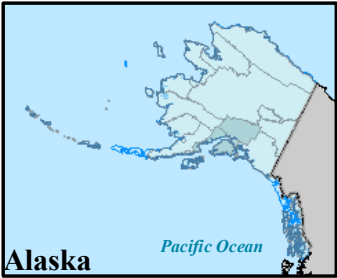
Percent of VA Patients with HIV/AIDS by County FY-2000

VA Health Care Atlas
HSR&D SDR 01-175

Source: VA Medical SAS Databases, FY-00

Created in ArcGIS 8 using ArcMap

Map 6.3



**Percent Disease-Specific Visits of Total Visits (HIV/AIDS)
by County FY-2000**

VA Health Care Atlas
HSR&D SDR 01-175

Source: VA Medical SAS Databases, FY-00

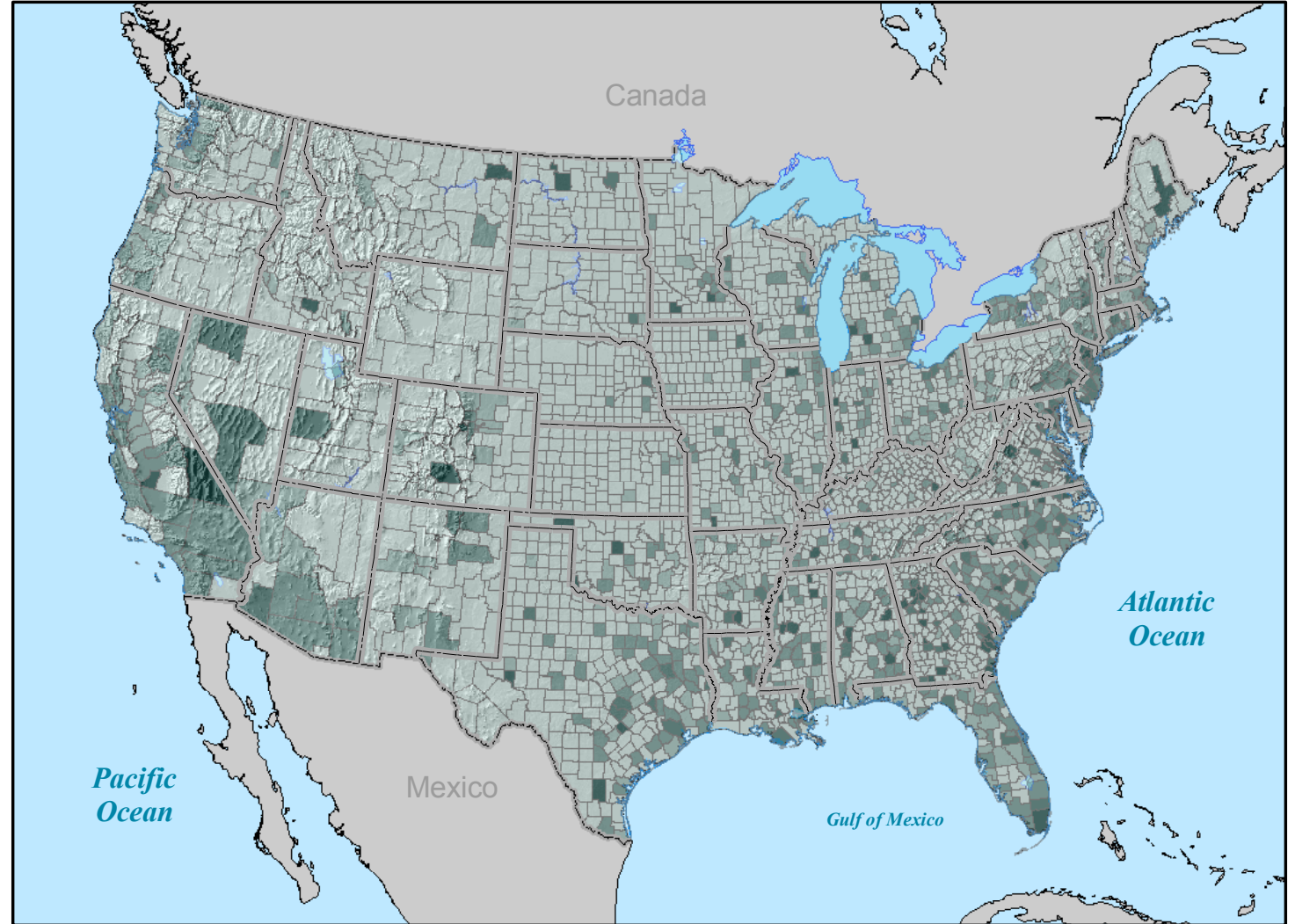
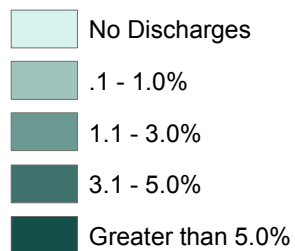
Created in ArcGIS 8 using ArcMap

HIV/AIDS

Map 6.4



Percent



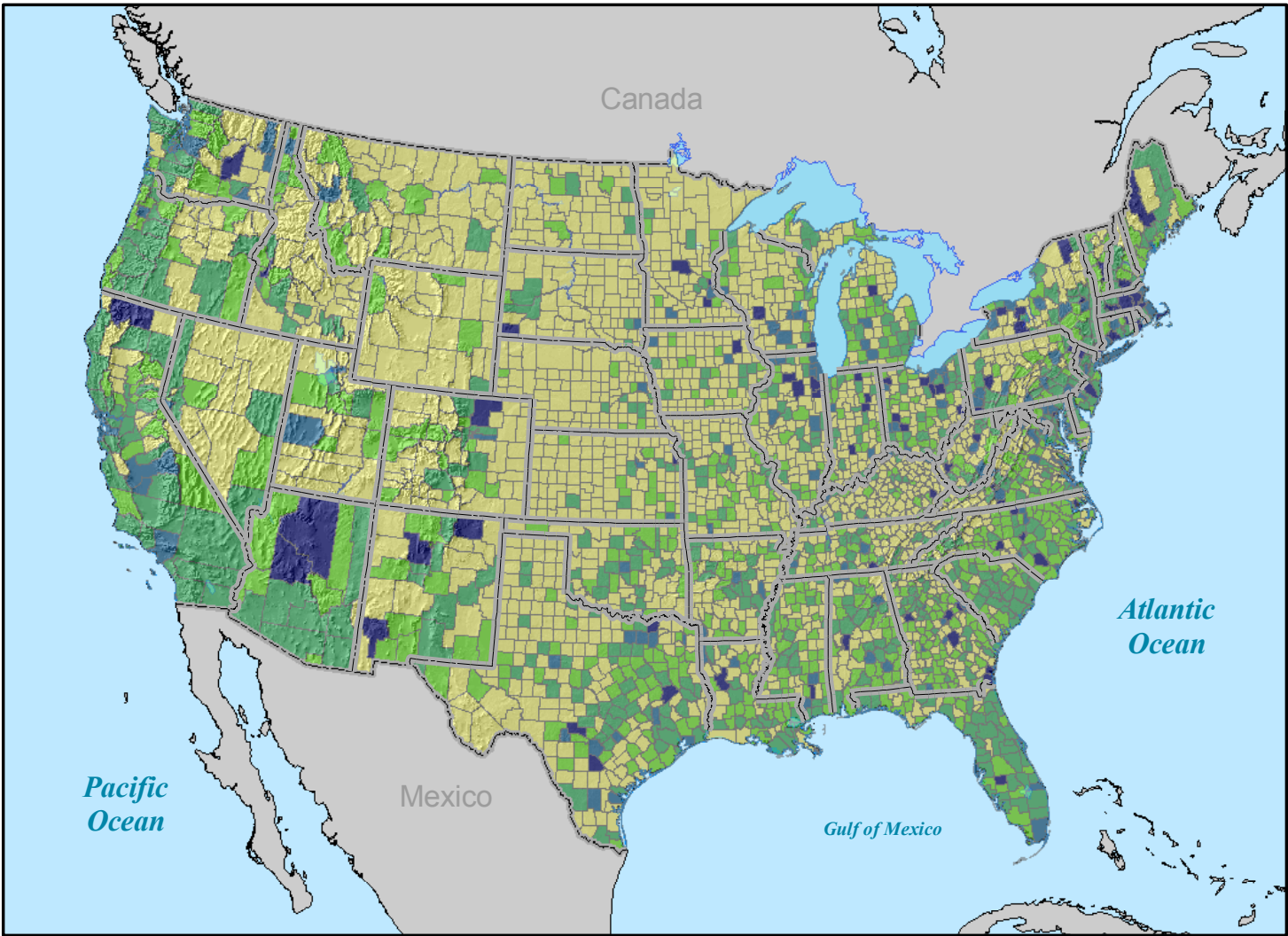
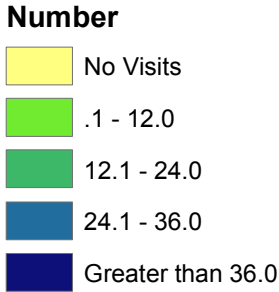
Percent Disease-Specific Discharges of Total Discharges (HIV/AIDS) by County FY-2000

VA Health Care Atlas
HSR&D SDR 01-175

Source: VA Medical SAS Databases, FY-00

Created in ArcGIS 8 using ArcMap

Map 6.5



**Average Number of Visits for Patients with HIV/AIDS
by County FY-2000**

VA Health Care Atlas
HSR&D SDR 01-175

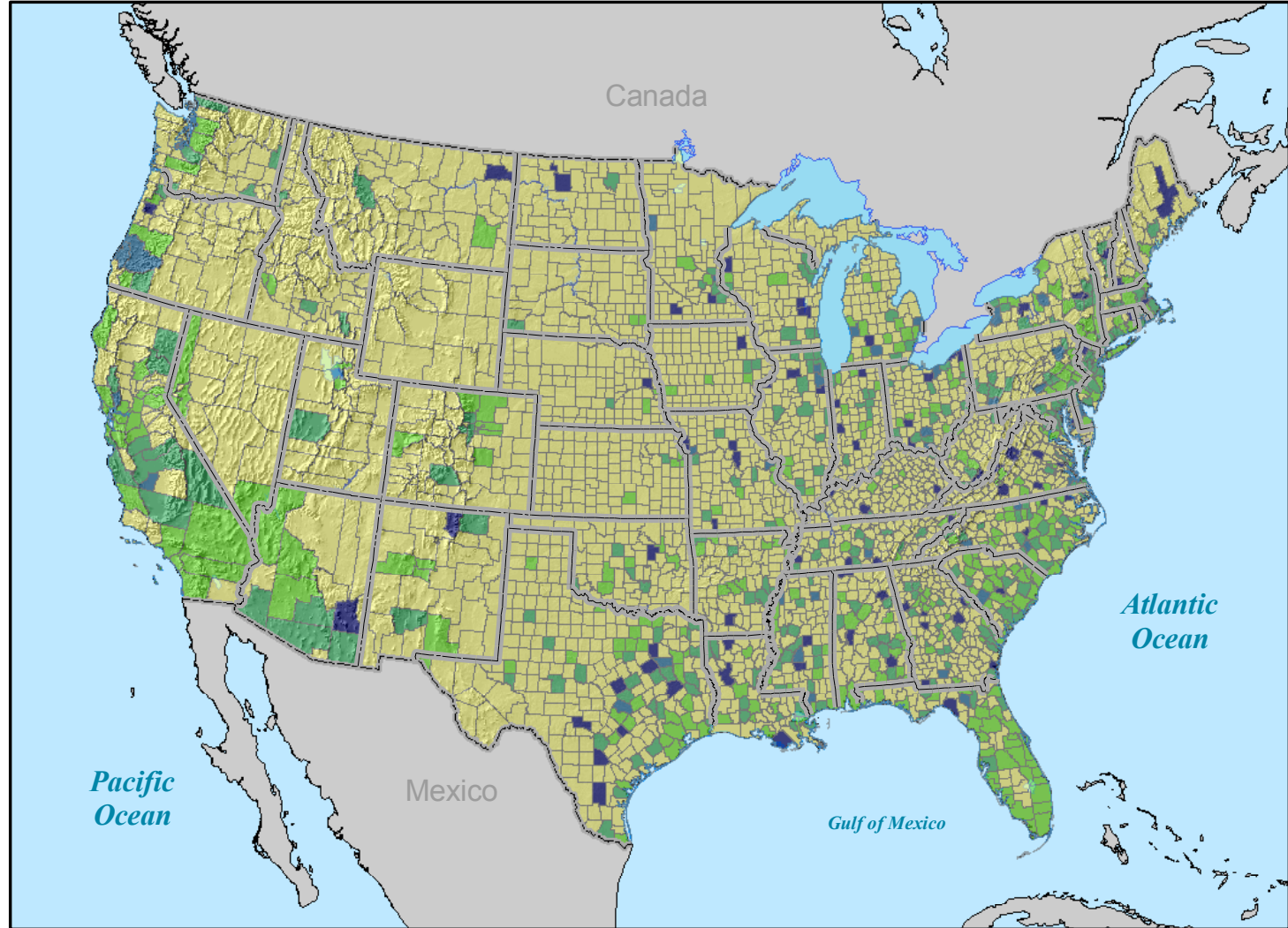
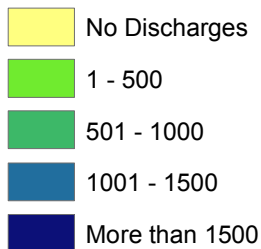
Source: VA Medical SAS Databases, FY-00
Created in ArcGIS 8 using ArcMap

HIV/AIDS

Mp 6.6



Number per 1,000



**Disease Specific Discharges per 1,000 Patients with HIV/AIDS
by County FY-2000**

VA Health Care Atlas
HSR&D SDR 01-175

Source: VA Medical SAS Databases, FY-00

Created in ArcGIS 8 using ArcMap

For More Information

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection is a condition that causes a chronic progressive disease that leads to early death if untreated. HIV is characterized by persistent viral replication throughout an extended period of time in which patients experience few or no symptoms, while their immune system is under siege. Over the course of 5 to 10 years, HIV typically results in significant immune depletion and dysfunction, chronic symptoms, and vulnerability to a variety of opportunistic conditions that characterize AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). There are 650,000 to 900,000 infected adults in the United States, and VA cares for about 17,000 to 18,000 HIV-infected patients each year, making it the largest provider of HIV care in the US.

QUERI-HIV is located at the San Diego VA Medical Center and is co-chaired by a Research Coordinator, Sam Bozzette, MD, PhD and a Clinical Coordinator, Deborah Cotton, MD, MPH. Researchers or other interested parties are encouraged to contact the QUERI –HIV Coordinator to learn more about VHA's current research foci and ongoing projects in the area of HIV:

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VA Medical Center (111N-1)
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San Diego, CA 92161
Telephone: 858/552-4325
FAX: 858/552-4321
E-mail: Candice.Bowman@med.va.gov

A summary of HIV/AIDS QUERI activities is provided below. These descriptions were extracted from the Fact Sheets available on the Web site: <http://www.hsrp.research.va.gov/queri.cfm>.

Research Focus and Translation Activities

The QUERI-HIV translation plan emphasizes the general importance of optimizing drug therapies and the need to implement change around a gap discovered in adequate antiretroviral prescribing practices. Most importantly, QUERI-HIV research indicates that antiretroviral treatment in the VA ranges from exceeding clinical expectations in some facilities to falling short of professional standards in others, even when disregarding controversies about when to start treatment or highly active combinations. For example, preliminary findings showed that in the third quarter of 1999, 55 percent of HIV patients in VA care with indications for antiretroviral therapy received acceptable combinations of antiretroviral drugs, ranging from 27 to 80 percent per facility. However, 4 percent received single drugs or combinations of drugs that are not recommended, ranging from 0 to 21 percent of patients per site. Current QUERI-HIV translation activities include developing a research standard database of patients receiving HIV care in VA, testing quality improvement (QI) strategies to improve HIV care, evaluating QI impacts on HIV patients and on the system (e.g., mortality measures, utilization rates), testing strategies to improve adherence to antiretroviral medications, improving screening practices to promote prevention, and investigating the effects of highly active antiretroviral therapy on the development of cardio- and cerebrovascular disease.

Here are just a few important areas of QUERI-HIV research and planned follow-up:

- *Veterans in care:* Pilot studies have shown an increasing number of HIV-infected veterans with comorbidities such as substance abuse and serious mental illness, or both. QUERI-HIV anticipates proposing additional research on the management and outcomes of these conditions and how they relate to HIV and its treatment.

- *Veterans not in care and those in care outside VHA:* QUERI-HIV is addressing several issues including veterans not in care and those who receive care outside VHA. While there are gaps in the knowledge about those with HIV infection who are not in care, research shows that minorities and other disadvantaged groups have inferior access to services. While economic barriers and fear of stigma may explain some lack of care, other barriers exist. QUERI-HIV will work to further assess any gaps that affect veterans with HIV who are not in care. Research also shows that veterans in care outside VHA, after adjusting for demographic and disease stage, are less likely to be uninsured than non-veterans. Thus VHA provides an effective “safety net.”
- *Metabolic disorders:* Over the past several years, lipodystrophy (defective metabolism of fat) has been recognized as a complication of HIV disease and treatment, particularly treatment with protease inhibitors. In addition, there is now increasing concern regarding hyperlipidemia, osteoporosis, and the potential for an increased risk of cardio/cerebrovascular events (i.e., myocardial infarction and stroke). QUERI-HIV is close to completing a study of the possible association between highly active antiretroviral therapy and these serious events.
- *Antiretroviral and prophylaxis treatment:* There is increasing unease that guidelines for antiretroviral and prophylaxis treatment of opportunistic infections may be too aggressive, and many practitioners concerned about the risk of side-effects are advocating a more conservative approach. QUERI-HIV will continue to closely monitor this treatment evolution when planning quality improvement efforts.